

# The Hog Pasture Is Profitable

Prepared by J. G. Haney of the Agricultural Extension Dept. of the International Harvester Co., for The Grand Forks Herald.

## More Profit From Hogs

Make More Profit From the Hogs by Making Them Work For You—Harvest Their Own Feed.

By J. G. HANEY, Agr. Ext. Dept., I. H. C.

Than the hog there is perhaps no other commodity sold from the farm that buys so many of the things which go to make the home comfortable and enjoyable. This is so because hog money is extra money—like money sent from home, or found. This would be true to an even greater extent if the hog were given a fair chance, for the hog is the most industrious animal on the farm. It is the first instinct of the pig to begin rooting round for something to eat, and it just keeps everlastingly at this until the first thing you know it has made a hog of itself and is ready for market.

The hog is not by nature an animal suited to close confinement. All hog raisers know that the finest specimens they ever had were those that were allowed free range about the farm when there was plenty of feed of all kinds. The hog delights in helping himself to what he wants, and does his best when he gets what he wants.

Then the hog, there is no worse treated animal on the farm—even his name, "hog," is used as a term of reproach, and too often we treat this indispensable animal in the spirit of "he is only a hog" anyhow. The hog by nature is a cleanly animal and if given a chance to do so will put to shame, in this respect, many of his more respected barnyard associates. Give the hog a chance.

### Hog Pasture.

There is perhaps no question more frequently asked than—"What can I sow for hog pasture?" In answering this question, due consideration must be given to the season when the question is asked, the condition of the soil, number of hogs to be pastured, and as to whether the pasture is wanted "right now" or next year.

The kind of crops sown for hog pasture should also be somewhat governed by the arrangement of yards

and field, as to whether they are to be permanent, or moved about over the farm from year to year. It is probable that a combination of movable and permanent lots and fields will be found most satisfactory.

**How Many Head of Hogs Per Acre.**  
The question as to how many hogs will an acre pasture, is as hard to answer, as how many bushels of grain will the field yield per acre. An acre might pasture 10 and it might pasture 50. It is best to be on the safe side and have plenty of pasture—an acre to 1,000 or 1,500 pounds of hogs. The hog is not strictly a pasture animal, and there is economy in always feeding some grain on pasture. Certain crops also furnish more feed than others. These crops will be considered separately.

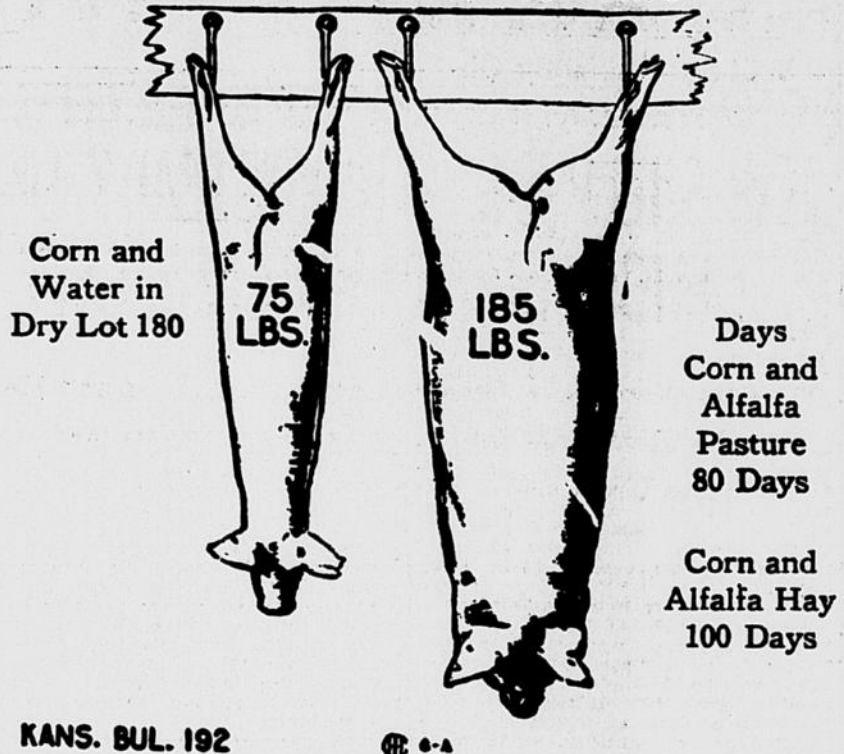
**Alfalfa for Permanent Hog Pasture.**  
Alfalfa perhaps holds first place as hog pasture, although these may be added value in a mixture of alfalfa with sweet clover and other clovers. Variety is as important in a hog pasture as it is anywhere else. The seedling of alfalfa for hog pasture may be accomplished as previously outlined in articles on this page. Unless the alfalfa makes a very vigorous, strong growth, it should not be pastured the first year. However, if the land had previously been in hog pasture, or was well manured, there may be sufficient growth to furnish a lot of good pasture the first year. As to whether any nurse crop should be sown, would depend largely on the condition of the land. A light seeding of beardless barley might be sown and pastured off, the hogs being turned in after it had headed out.

### Divide the Hog Pasture.

There is a great advantage in having twice or three times the area devoted to alfalfa or other permanent hog pastures, as is actually needed, so that it may be divided and the parts

## ALFALFA BALANCES THE CORN RATION

KANS. EXP.—14 PIGS—180 DAYS



KANS. BUL. 192

pastured alternately. This admits of cutting the regular crops of hay. The first crop on one of the divisions might be cut a little earlier, and after it had attained a fair growth the hogs could be changed to this pasture, and the other cut for hay so that at all times there would be a good fresh growth for the hogs to pasture on. This has a decided advantage over continuous grazing, unless the area is very large so that the regular crops may be cut. It is possible, of course, to manage a single field, by cutting only a portion of it at a time. It is, however, important that any alfalfa hog pasture be clipped regularly so that the plants will not be weakened by blooming and producing seed, and that there will be fresh pasture at all times.

### Hogging Off Crops.

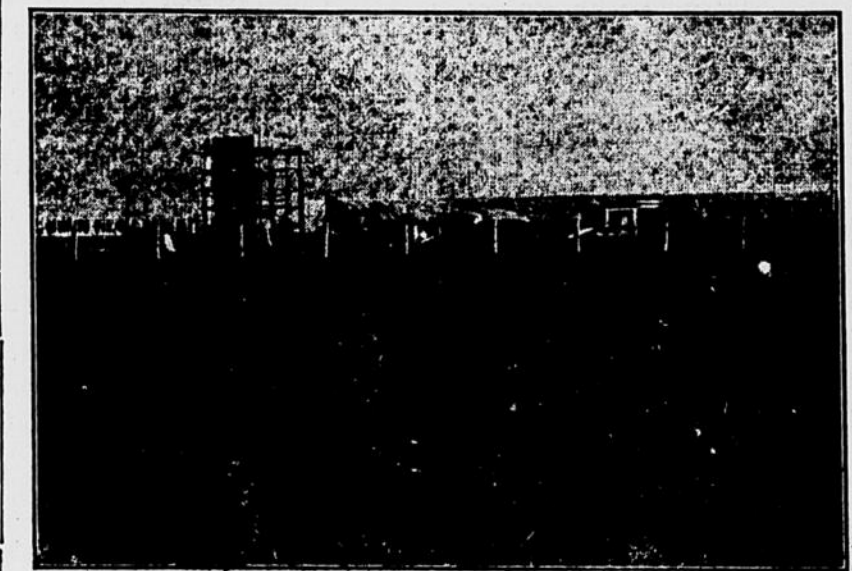
While a great many may consider it a wasteful process to turn the hogs into fields of corn or grain, and allowing them to harvest these crops, the fact is that it is a most profitable method of securing such crops as may be utilized in this way. It must be remembered that the entire cost of harvesting and marketing this crop is saved. Also, the labor in caring for the hogs is greatly reduced, and hogs under such circumstances do much better than if kept in close confinement and fed. Also, it must be realized that the entire fertility content of this crop is returned immediately to the soil, so that a great improvement can be expected in soils on which crops have been pastured off.

It is also noticeable that the practice of hogging off crops is very much on the increase. It has been said that the only value in harvesting crops, even grinding and cooking them, before feeding them to the hog, is a saving of the hog's time, so that it can be figured what the hog's time

is worth it can be determined whether or not it is profitable to harvest, grind and cook feed for the hog.

### Crops to Be Hogged Off.

In this region perhaps there will be a greater advantage in hogging off corn than any other crop, because of the fact that it is necessary to grow a cultivated crop to keep our grain fields in proper condition. Corn for this purpose should be planted and



"What Methods More Wise Could the Farmers Combine Than Raising Alfalfa and Fattening Swine."

tended the same as for any other purpose, and it is probable that the Flint varieties will furnish an equal or greater return for hogging off than the Dents.

They are particularly well adapted to hogging off, because the grain is hard and will withstand bad weather conditions better than the Dents. In fact it is not an uncommon practice for Flint corn to be left in the field over winter, and pastured off the following spring with practically no waste.

It may ordinarily be figured that a bushel of corn will produce 10 pounds of pork. This of course varies with the amount and character of other feeds which may be available, but this is about as good a basis for figuring on how many acres of corn will be required for a given number of young hogs, as any other. If a carload of 80 head of hogs are to be fattened, and it is desired to have enough corn for doing this, they should be grown on other pasture and feeds during the spring and summer until they weigh 125 pounds each. If they are to be put on the market at 225 pounds each it would require practically 10 bushels of corn per head to give them the desired weight. This would mean that if the corn went 40 bushels per acre it would require 20 acres to feed this carload of hogs. Alfalfa or sweet clover pasture in addition, will be of great benefit, or winter rye sown in the corn early will furnish good green feed.

### Beardless Barley and Rape.

While it is not generally recognized that small grains may make very profitable hog pasture, they nevertheless are used to a great extent further west. Beardless barley is one of the favorites on account of the stiff straw, and earliness, and on account of the fact that the hogs seem to relish it. This should be sown in the ordinary way and the hogs turned in about the time the grain is in the dough stage. Barley also makes excellent hog pasture while young, either alone or in combination with Dwarf Essex Rape. In case there is no permanent hog pasture, such as alfalfa, per-

haps no better mixture could be sown than a bushel to a bushel and a half of barley and 5 pounds of Dwarf Essex Rape. This can be pastured as soon as it has made a growth of 8 or 10 inches, and may furnish considerable feed until after frost, as the rape is a very persistent grower and withstands light frosts.

A very common use to be made of barley is to seed half of the hog pasture quite early, and a couple of weeks or a month later seed the other half. The hogs, by this time, would probably have the first seeding eaten quite closely. As soon as the new seeding has attracted their attention the first seeding may be plowed up and reseeded, and this operation continued throughout the season, so that there is fresh pasture available at all times. In such a case it would hardly be advisable to sow rape as it would not have time to make very much growth.

Wheat and oats may also be used for pasture in a similar manner.

**Winter Rye.**  
There is perhaps no crop that is so little appreciated as winter rye for pasture purposes for all kinds of stock. If this crop can be sown quite early, July 25 to September 1, it will make a very considerable amount of pasture in the fall.

A very satisfactory way of seeding rye is to put it in in corn with the one-horse drill. The corn may either be cut for fodder and hauled off, or even hogged off, and at the same time a great deal of benefit be secured from the rye.

The rye is about the first thing green in the spring and will furnish a large amount of pasture until it becomes too woody. However, as soon as the heads begin to form the hogs will look to them and utilize the crop with very little waste. In case the rye were pastured too heavy it might be advisable to plow it under and reseed to some other crop.

### Field Peas.

The field pea is a crop much used in many sections of the north, and proves most satisfactory for harvesting with hogs. Apparently, however, this crop has never been grown very extensively in this immediate vicinity. It should be sown with a light seeding of grain, which enables them to stand up.

time the peas are matured. It is such feed as this that produces the finest bacon that can be put on the market. Any neighborhood or section of the country that would make a specialty of this kind of pork would be sure of securing a premium, especially if the bacon type of hogs were used, such as the Yorkshires or Tamworths.

### Planning Rotation of Hog Pasture.

The profit in the hog business is no more determined by the price at which the hogs are sold than by the cost of production. It has been shown by repeated trials in our own state that the cost of producing a pound of pork may vary anywhere from 2 1-2c to 6c. It is readily seen that if pork can be produced for from 2 1-2c to 3 1-2c per pound, and hogs sell at from 6c to 8c, there will be a good profit.

The cost of producing, of course, depends entirely on the cost of feed and care, providing that a good grade of hogs are used. If it can be planned so that the hogs will require little or no attention, which will be the fact if pasture is provided for them, and if proper crops are planted so that they will have the feeds which are necessary to grow and fatten them, the cost can undoubtedly be kept down to the minimum.

It has been shown in numerous

tests that where hogs were allowed to pasture off a part of a field, that the net returns from the part so pastured was double the net returns from the part that was harvested and sold in the ordinary way.

(Continued on Page 7.)

## TOP PRICES PAID FOR HIDES, WOOL

Calf Skins, Pelts, Tallow Etc.  
Also Copper, Brass, Iron, Lead, Tin, Auto Tires, Inner Tubes, Rubber, Etc.

**REDICK** HIDE & FUR CO.  
Established 1884. Grand Forks

## JOHN BIRKHOFF

Money Always on Hand for First Mortgage Farm Loans.  
GRAND FORKS, N. D.

## The Big Bull Tractor

Does the work of fourteen horses; subsoils the land; grinds the feed. Call or write.

**Cameron Bull Tractor Co.**

17-19 South Fifth St.

Grand Forks, N. D.

# INSURE Your Growing Crops

AGAINST

# HAIL

IN THE

**NORTHERN FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE CO.**

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA.

Only North Dakota Stock Company

Write for our Free Farm Record and Account Book



## Flax Seed

The spring is late. More flax than usual will be seeded. We have 2,000 bushels of No. 52 North Dakota Registered Serial No. 20,248 Wilt Resisting Flax.

Purity 99.5%

Germination 99%

Order now while we have it.

Everything in Grass Seeds: Alfalfa, Sweet Clover, Bromus, Rye Grass, Timothy, Millets and Clovers.

Bulk Garden Seeds.

We are distributors and handlers of Northern King & Co. Garden and Field Seeds.

**Grand Forks Seed Co.**  
206-207 So. 2d Street.

## For Better Garden Results Sow Northrup, King & Co's Seeds



If you were sure that you could buy seeds which would grow successfully in your garden wouldn't you consider them a profitable investment?

Northrup, King & Co.'s Seeds have given satisfaction for a third of a century because they are especially adapted to the severe climate of the Northwest. They have been selected from those strains which give large yields of splendid quality. The seeds which bear our name have all been tested for purity and germination.

Dealers in every locality can supply our full line of seeds and will gladly get for you any varieties which they do not carry in stock.

If you are unable to purchase our seeds from your merchant write to us and we will see that your order is promptly filled.

### LARGE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

This book is brimful of valuable information and cultural notes. It will help you to improve your garden, select your seeds and raise finer crops. Write for a copy today. It will be mailed free.

**NORTHRUP, KING & Co., Seedsmen**  
Hennepin Ave. at First St. Minneapolis, Minn.